

Holy Trinity Ambassador

December 2021



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

1 p.m. & 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity

Christmas Day

9 a.m. with Holy Communion

No 5 p.m. Evening Service

Sunday Divine Service 9 a.m.

The Flower, Candle and Radio sign-up sheet for 2022 is on the bulletin board outside church office.

Candles are \$20.

Flowers are \$30 small, \$40 large.

Radio Broadcast \$90.

Oplatki

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available in the church office 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Advent Worship

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

December 1st, 8th, 15th

Theme: "Hymns of Advent"

Soup served from 5 - 5:30 p.m.

Preschool Nut Sale

Thank you to all for your orders! We have some extra nuts available for purchase! Check in the fellowship hall after services or Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - noon!

Looking for some Christmas gifts to encourage growth in faith?

The Lutheran Study Bible - \$40 & \$45

Bible Covers - \$17

Book of Concord - Readers Edition - \$25

Faith Alive Student Bible - \$28

The Real Story of Creation - \$5 (youth)

The Real Story of the Flood - \$5 (youth)

A Child's Garden of Bible Stories - \$14

Hope for Hurting Singles - by Jack Zavada, \$15

Available copies in the church office.



Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Jesus says to pay attention to the signs the end of the world is coming. Just like paying attention to the trees can help you figure out what season it is - Jesus says - pay attention to the signs that this world is drawing to a close. These are signs that everyone can see and are evident to all.

Jesus said ***"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken."***(Luke 21: 25 - 26) When crazy weather happens - it's a sign - the end is coming. This shouldn't surprise us. Things are happening as our Lord said.

Are these signs occurring with greater frequency? That's hard to say. We don't have weather records from centuries ago. Jesus did not say more of them will occur or that the signs will occur closer together before the end comes. He simply speaks about signs that the end is coming. They are occurring. So what does that mean?

Jesus warns us, ***"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth."*** (Luke 21:34-35)

Jesus knows how we are. He knows how easily His sheep get distracted. We get distracted by our toys, our phones, our TV's, our computers. We get distracted from being attentive to the Word of God. Out of love, our Lord warns us to watch ourselves and pay attention.

Jesus encourages us that when these things begin to take place, stand up, and lift up your heads, "because your redemption is drawing near." That is not an attitude of fear. That is an attitude of anticipation. The King is coming. He is coming to bring our salvation to a completion. God has declared it to be so. Heaven and earth will pass away Jesus tells us, but His words will not pass away.

So we wait. We can observe and comment on the signs in the weather. They are there. While we wait, we pray. We ask God to work in our hearts attentiveness to His Word. We ask that He would help us not to be weighed down by the cares of this world. Lord, draw our attention to you!

For Your Prayers Members in Bold (requested by)

Marian Carpenter
Bob Cross
Don Delzel (Pat Gotch)
Ruth Harlow
Laura Johnston (Nancy Hepner)
Roberta Koral
Mary Lou Rubis
George Tibbles
Missionary Jacob Gaugert
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Please pray for additional organists and workers for our music system.

If you have placed a name on the prayer list please keep the Church Office updated on their status.

Holy Trinity Website

www.holytrinitystreator.org

Please visit our church website for current information including the Ambassador and Preschool Newsletter. Listen to sermons On-line. Click the "Hear the Word" tab

Church Council Meeting

October 26, 2021

Present: M. Peters, D. Gotch,
J. Bedeker, B. Lentman, R. Kochis,
L. Poundstone, V. McCollum and Pastor Gutz

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Nut sale deposits are ahead of last year. Income is up from last year. Preschool is in a positive financial position. Church carpet fund has been established and added to the financial report. Income for this year is ahead of last year.

Church Properties: Bulbs were replaced in the outside lights on the church. Greg Lentman replaced the bulbs for outside lights on Old #3 and closed the exhaust vents. Gas will be turned on in November at Old #3.

Board of Education: Preschool enrollment is 51. Nut sale is over and is being processed. Canopy on the southeast entrance needs repair. The company has been contacted. The bid from TROY was approved to replace the existing camera and add a 5th camera to the southwest entrance along with the replacement of recording equipment. Cost to be shared on an equal basis by the church and preschool.

Elders: Pastoral activities were reviewed. Volunteers to serve in Nov. were assigned. Reviewed budget proposal.

Parish Activities: Birthday and sympathy cards were sent. Refreshments were served at the October Voters Meeting. 5th Sunday Fellowship may resume in 2022.

Old Business: Mike Peters continues to work on setting up a virtual meeting with LCMS Foundation.

Steps to Happiness:

- 1. Life isn't the problem. Your interpretations are:** You might think: "This post is long. It stinks that I have to read all this." Or: "This post is long. So much to look forward to!" Post is the same. Your interpretation created those feelings.
- 2. Step back:** "Be more impulsive" isn't advice you hear a lot.
- 3. Accept:** Nor do you hear "you should live in denial."
- 4. The mind requires training:** Yes, that means work. We know being impulsive and denying reality aren't good but we do them anyway. Bad habits are hard to break. Meditate on that. Literally.
- 5. Feeling is the only way through:** You'll never eliminate your personal basket of neuroses — but you don't have to act on them either. Make room for them on the couch, feel them, and they will dissipate.
- 6. Focus on the present:** Regret might be back there. Anxiety might be up ahead. But what is really bothering you right now? So spend more time in the now.
- 7. People are ridiculous. Love them anyway:** The only people who are perfect and always make sense are people you don't know very well. We all take our turn as the crazy uncle at Thanksgiving dinner. Treat people as old friends and often they will become just that.
- 8. Pray. Especially the Psalms.** Remember who's in charge and greater than your problems.

What's the final step? Gratitude.



Preschool

The theme for the month of December will be the birth of Jesus!

Our December Bible stories:

"The Birth of John"
"The First Christmas"

Bible memory verse - December - "A Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11.

Christmas parties will be held on December 16th and 17th during class times.

Christmas will be here soon! Take time to enjoy your family and the many gifts God has given you!

Dates to Remember

Christmas break begins on December 22nd
Jan. 5 – School resumes for MWF & 5 Day
Jan. 6 – School resumes for T/Th



Serving in December

Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis
Sunday – Tim Kerestes, Mike Peters

Ushers

John Burt, Rob Downey,

Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman
Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

+ Ruth A. Rinkenberger +

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Ruth Rinkenberger.

Ruth was born December 7, 1926, in Dwight. Ruth was the daughter of James and Bertha (Hahn) Christensen. Ruth married Charles Rinkenberger on June 20, 1948 in Dwight. He preceded her in death on November 8, 2020. Ruth was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism and confirmed. On Friday, November 12 Ruth at the age of 94 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Ruth is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Charles, and two brothers, Glenn and Alvin Christensen.

Ruth had worked at Streator Home Building and Loan for over 50 years as a secretary and operating officer. She had also worked for Illinois Savings and Loan and the Federal Home and Loan Bank. Ruth attended Tuesday a.m. Bible class and was a former church treasurer. She was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord for our sister Ruth.

For the Record

Christian Funeral:
Ruth Rinkenberger
November 18, 2021